



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Sheep & Lamb Losses



Wyoming Field Office
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February 18, 2011

Dear Data Users,

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 41,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease and other causes in 2010 according to our annual survey. Total losses were down 4,800 head from the previous year. Predators accounted for 41 percent of the losses. The 2010 lamb crop totaled 230,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was down 10 percent from 2009. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 249,000 head. Of these, 12,300 or 65 percent were lost to various non-predator causes, compared to 57 percent in 2009.

These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep and Goat Survey. We thank all Wyoming ranchers and farmers for their help with this survey. We also thank the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who funds this report as part of the annual agreement with our agency to provide statistics for Wyoming agriculture.

If you have any question about this report please call us toll-free at 1-800-892-1660.

Sincerely,

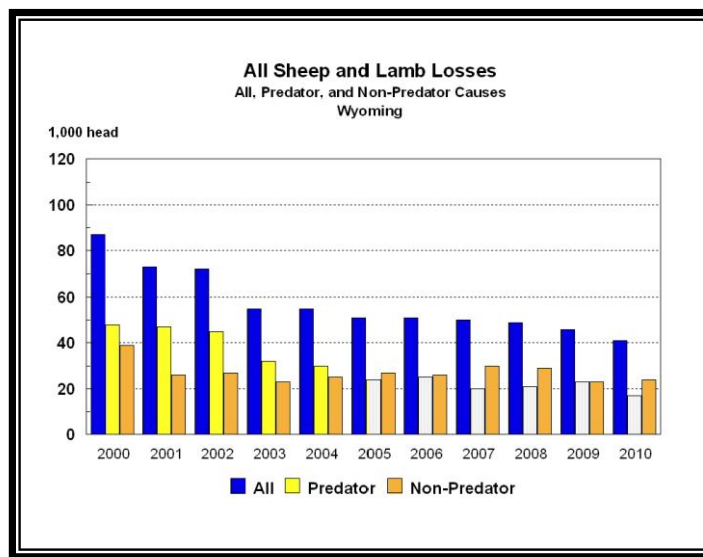
Todd Ballard
Director



HIGHLIGHTS

PREDATOR LOSSES LOWER: Wyoming sheep producers lost 16,800 sheep and lambs to predators in 2010, down 26 percent from 2009. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 67 percent of the total predator losses and 27 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease and other non-predator causes increased by 1,000 head to 24,200.

NON-PREDATOR LAMB LOSSES UP: Sheep producers lost 32,000 lambs before or after docking in 2010, down 800 head from 2009. Losses to predators accounted for 45 percent of the total, down 5,200 from 2009. Losses of lambs to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes were up 4,400 head to 17,500.



SHEEP LOSSES LOWER: Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2010 totaled 9,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2009. Predator losses were down 600 head at 2,300 and non-predator losses were down 3,400 head to 6,700.

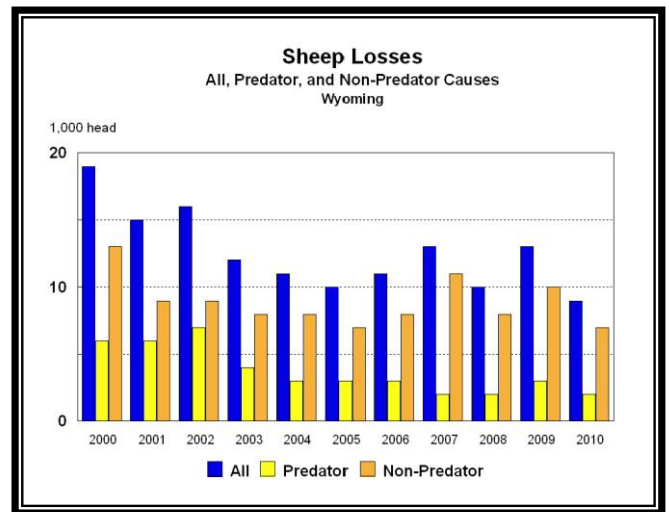
VALUE OF LOSSES LOWER: Sheep producers lost an estimated \$3.5 million due to sheep and lamb deaths in 2010, down from \$3.7 million the previous year. Predation accounted for \$1.4 million or 39 percent of the total.

Losses of Sheep by Cause: Wyoming, 2009 and 2010

Cause of Loss	2009		2010	
	Head	% of Total 1/	Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	700	5.4	100	1.1
Bobcats	—	—	—	—
Coyotes	1,600	12.3	1400	15.6
Dogs	200	1.5	100	1.1
Ravens	—	—	—	—
Eagles	2/	2/	300	3.3
Wolves	100	0.8	200	2.2
Foxes	100	0.8	—	—
Mountain Lions	200	1.5	200	2.2
Other Predators	—	—	2/	2/
Total Predators	2,900	22.3	2,300	25.6
Disease	900	6.9	500	5.6
Overeating	2/	2/	2/	2/
Weather	4,700	36.2	1500	16.7
Lambing Complications	1,600	12.3	1300	14.4
Old Age	1,600	12.3	2100	23.3
On Back	400	3.1	500	5.6
Poisoning	700	5.4	700	7.8
Theft	2/	2/	2/	2/
Other Non-Predators	200	1.5	100	1.1
Total Non-Predators	10,100	77.7	6,700	74.4
Total Loss All Causes	13,000	100.0	9,000	100.0

1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.



Losses of Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2009 and 2010

Cause of Loss	2009				2010			
	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/	Before Docking	After Docking	Total Head	% of Total 1/
Bears	2/	900	900	2.7	2/	200	200	0.6
Bobcats	100	100	200	0.6	100	2/	100	0.3
Coyotes	4,100	9,600	13,700	41.8	3,900	5,900	9,800	30.6
Dogs	100	300	400	1.2	2/	200	200	0.6
Ravens	3/	3/	3/	3/	700	100	800	2.5
Eagles	1,100	800	1,900	5.8	1,200	600	1,800	5.6
Wolves	2/	500	500	1.5	2/	100	100	0.3
Foxes	700	200	900	2.7	700	100	800	2.5
Mountain Lions	100	900	1,000	3.1	100	600	700	2.2
Other Predators	200	2/	200	0.6	2/	2/	2/	2/
Total Predators	6,400	13,300	19,700	60.1	6,700	7,800	14,500	45.3
Disease	500	1,200	1,700	5.2	500	700	1,200	3.8
Overeating	100	200	300	0.9	100	800	900	2.8
Weather	5,500	2,000	7,500	22.9	9,700	1,400	11,100	34.7
Lambing	2,200	—	2,200	6.7	1,800	—	1,800	5.6
On Back	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Poisoning	2/	600	600	1.8	100	1,300	1,400	4.4
Theft	2/	—	2/	2/	—	200	200	0.6
Other Non-Predators	100	700	800	2.4	100	800	900	2.8
Total Non-Predators	8,400	4,700	13,100	39.8	12,300	5,200	17,500	54.7
Total Loss All Causes	14,800	18,000	32,800	100.0	19,000	13,000	32,000	100.0

1/ May not add due to rounding.

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

3/ Included in Other Predators prior to 2010.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs by Cause: Wyoming, 2006-2010 1/

Cause of Loss	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/	Total Head	% of Total 2/
Bears	1,300	2.5	900	1.8	1,000	2.0	1,600	3.5	300	0.7
Bobcats	600	1.2	600	1.2	300	0.6	200	0.4	100	0.2
Coyotes	17,200	33.7	12,900	25.8	14,400	29.4	15,300	33.4	11,200	27.3
Dogs	500	1.0	900	1.8	400	0.8	600	1.3	300	0.7
Ravens	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	800	2.0
Eagles	1,800	3.5	1,400	2.8	1,600	3.3	1,900	4.2	2,100	5.1
Wolves	300	0.6	500	1.0	100	0.2	600	1.3	300	0.7
Fox	1,400	2.7	1,200	2.4	1,700	3.5	1,000	2.2	800	2.0
Mountain Lions	1,100	2.2	800	1.6	800	1.6	1,200	2.6	900	2.2
Other Predators	400	0.8	400	0.8	200	0.4	200	0.4	4/	4/
Total Predators	24,600	48.2	19,600	39.2	20,500	41.8	22,600	49.3	16,800	41.0
Disease	2,900	5.7	3,700	7.4	3,700	7.6	2,600	5.7	1,700	4.2
Overeating	1,300	2.5	700	1.4	1,100	2.2	300	0.7	900	2.2
Weather	7,200	14.1	15,000	30.0	14,200	29.0	12,200	26.6	12,600	30.7
Lambing Complications	6,900	13.5	4,400	8.8	3,600	7.4	3,800	8.3	3,100	7.6
Old Age	2,200	4.3	1,500	3.0	2,700	5.5	1,600	3.5	2,100	5.1
On Back	900	1.8	700	1.4	500	1.0	400	0.9	500	1.2
Poison	2,300	4.5	1,700	3.4	1,500	3.1	1,300	2.8	2,100	5.1
Theft	300	0.6	600	1.2	400	0.8	4/	4/	200	0.5
Other Causes	2,400	4.7	2,100	4.2	800	1.6	1,000	2.2	1,000	2.4
Total Non-Predators	26,400	51.8	30,400	60.8	28,500	58.2	23,200	50.7	24,200	59.0
Total Loss All Causes	51,000	100.0	50,000	100.0	49,000	100.0	45,800	100.0	41,000	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ May not add due to rounding.

3/ Included in Other Predators prior to 2010.

4/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

Value of Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Wyoming, 2009 and 2010 1/ 2/

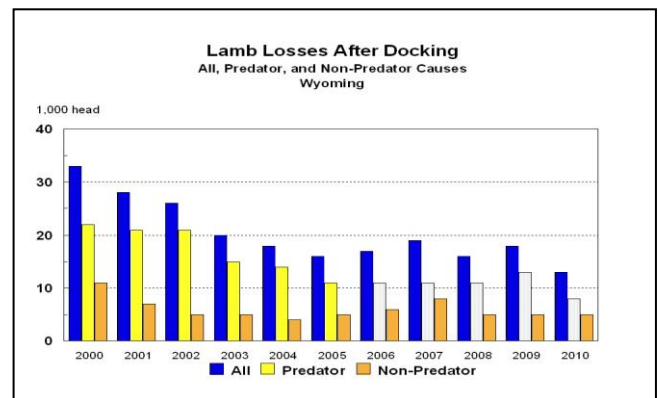
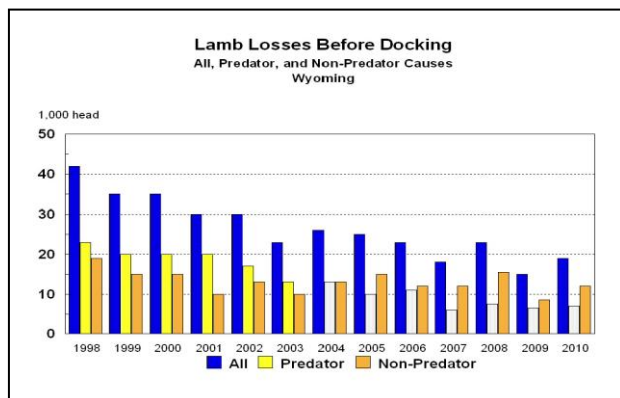
Cause of Loss	Sheep		Lambs		Sheep & Lambs	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
Bears	93,100	12,900	54,000	14,600	147,100	27,500
Bobcats	—	—	12,000	7,300	12,000	7,300
Coyotes	212,800	180,600	822,000	717,400	1,034,800	898,000
Dogs	26,600	12,900	24,000	14,600	50,600	27,500
Ravens	3/	4/	3/	58,600	3/	58,600
Eagles	4/	38,700	114,000	131,800	114,000	170,500
Wolves	13,300	25,800	30,000	7,300	43,300	33,100
Foxes	13,300	—	54,000	58,600	67,300	58,600
Mountain Lions	26,600	25,800	60,000	51,200	86,600	77,000
Other Predators	—	4/	12,000	4/	12,000	4/
Total Predators	385,700	296,700	1,182,000	1,061,400	1,567,700	1,358,100
Disease	119,700	64,500	102,000	87,800	221,700	152,300
Overeating	4/	4/	18,000	65,900	18,000	65,900
Weather	625,100	193,500	450,000	812,500	1,075,100	1,006,000
Lambing Complications	212,800	167,700	132,000	131,800	344,800	299,500
Old Age	212,800	270,900	—	—	212,800	270,900
On Back	53,200	64,500	4/	4/	53,200	64,500
Poison	93,100	90,300	36,000	102,500	129,100	192,800
Theft	4/	4/	4/	14,600	4/	14,600
Other Causes	26,600	12,900	48,000	65,900	74,600	78,800
Total Non-Predators	1,343,300	864,300	786,000	1,281,000	2,129,300	2,145,300
Total Loss All Causes	1,729,000	1,161,000	1,968,000	2,342,400	3,697,000	3,503,400

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ Sheep value is based on a two-year average value per head of ewes 1+ years. Two-year average ewe value 2009-\$128.00, 2010-\$130.00. Lamb value per head is based on the annual average price received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 lb. lamb. Lamb value 2009-\$60.00, preliminary 2010-\$73.20.

3/ Included in Other Predators prior to 2010.

4/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.



Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Total by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2010 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
			Head			
Bears	100	100	100	2/	—	300
Bobcats	2/	100	—	—	—	100
Coyotes	800	4,100	1,200	1,400	3,700	11,200
Dogs	100	100	2/	2/	100	300
Ravens	100	—	600	100	—	800
Eagles	100	800	300	300	600	2,100
Wolves	200	2/	100	2/	2/	300
Foxes	100	200	100	2/	400	800
Mountain Lions	200	700	—	2/	—	900
Other Predators	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/
Total Predators	1,700	6,100	2,400	1,800	4,800	16,800
Disease	700	100	300	100	500	1,700
Overeating	200	100	400	2/	200	900
Weather	500	2,500	4,600	1,900	3,100	12,600
Lambing Complications	900	800	200	200	1000	3,100
Old Age	500	700	100	100	700	2,100
On Back	100	200	2/	2/	200	500
Poison	100	500	1,200	200	100	2,100
Theft	—	—	—	100	100	200
Other Non-Predators	100	400	100	2/	400	1000
Total Non-Predators	3,100	5,300	6,900	2,600	6,300	24,200
Total Loss All Causes	4,800	11,400	9,300	4,400	11,100	41,000

1/ Includes all lambs losses both before and after docking.

2/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.

Losses of Sheep and Lambs: Percent by Cause within each Agricultural Statistics District, Wyoming 2010 1/

Cause of Loss	Agricultural Statistics District					State
	North West	North East	West	South Central	South East	
			Percent 2/			
Bears	2.1	0.9	1.1	3/	—	0.7
Bobcats	3/	0.9	—	—	—	0.2
Coyotes	16.7	36.0	13.0	31.8	33.0	27.3
Dogs	2.1	0.9	3/	2/	0.9	0.7
Ravens	2.1	—	6.5	2.3	—	2.0
Eagles	2.1	7.0	3.3	6.8	5.4	5.1
Wolves	4.2	3/	1.1	3/	3/	0.7
Fox	2.1	1.8	1.1	3/	3.6	2.0
Mountain Lions	4.2	6.1	—	3/	—	2.2
Other Predators	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Total Predators	35.4	53.5	25.8	40.9	43.2	41.0
Disease	14.6	0.9	3.3	2.3	4.5	4.2
Overeating	4.2	0.9	4.4	3/	1.8	2.2
Weather	10.4	21.9	50.0	43.2	27.9	30.7
Lambing Complications	18.8	7.0	2.2	4.6	9.0	7.6
Old Age	10.4	6.1	1.1	2.3	6.3	5.1
On Back	2.1	1.8	3/	3/	1.8	1.2
Poison	2.1	4.4	13.0	4.6	0.9	5.1
Theft	—	—	—	2.3	0.9	0.5
All Other Causes	2.1	3.5	1.1	3/	3.6	2.4
Total Non-Predators	64.6	46.5	74.2	59.1	56.8	59.0
Total Loss All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Includes all lambs losses both before and after docking.

2/ May not add due to rounding.

3/ Less than 100 head; not published due to rounding.